(a) whether Government are considering to incorporate provisions for compulsory licensing while amending the Indian Patents Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent steep rise in pharmaceutical prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The Patents Act, 1970 already contains provisions for compulsory licensing.

(c) In accordance with the objectives of the Drug Policy, 1986, to ensure adequate availability at reasonable prices of essential life saving and prophylactic medicines, the prices of identified medicines are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987.

Share of Patented Drugs in India

@*269. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a chart showing share of patented drugs in India, prepared from the information available from the US Health Department, published in the Indian Express of 3rd January, 1994 which is contradicting the claim of Government that only about 15 per cent of drugs sold in the Indian market are covered by product patents; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The report in the newspaper has been seen. It is incorrect in its assessment of the situation. The Government's assessment is that less than 15 per cent of the drugs of the total pharmaceutical market in the country comprised drugs which are under product patents.

Training under Colombo Plan

*270. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of slots wasted for Colombo Plan training abroad due to denial of cadre clearance to CSS Officers during the last two years;

(b) the number of CSS and other services' officers in whose case special cadre clearance given by the Department of Personnel and Training have been withdrawn and the grounds for the withdrawal of the same;

(c) the number of officers to whom such special cadre clearance has been given during the last two years and on what grounds;

(d) whether there is a deliberate discrimination against the CSS officers in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) No slots are specifically reserved for any Service for trainning under the Colombo Plan. Hence, the question of under-utilisation of slots, for want of cadre clearance to CSS officers does not arise.

(b) and (c) There is no such thing as "special cadre clearance". However, Cadre clearance was withdrawn by the Department of Personnel and Training in respect of one CSS officer and one IAS officer since they were ineligible under the general guidelines, for nomination for a general course.

@Previously Starred Question No. 209 transferred from 9th March, 1994.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Use of voting machines

*271. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although thousands of voting machines are available, these are not being used anywhere;

(b) whether Government would consider using the available machines, particularly in the regions where booth-capturing and rigging are widespread;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are not manufacturing enough voting machines to cater to the needs of the whole country only for reasons of cost;

(d) what would be the estimated cost of these machines if they were manufactured on a large scale; and

(e) whether Government consider that economy on voting machines is more important than the fairness of elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government, however, advised the Election Commission of India in May 1993 to use the existing electronic voting machines in the general elections to the National Capital Territory of Delhi Assembly and other elections, wherever feasible. However, according to the Election Commission of India it could not use these machines in these elections due to a variety of reasons.

(c) to (e) A decision to procure additional electronic voting machines to cover the entire country would be taken only after the efficacy of the existing machines has been tested in elections.

सौराष्ट्र में उच्च न्यायालय की पीठ

*272. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने सौराष्ट्र में गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय की पीठ की स्थापना करने के संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाये हैं;

(ख) क्या राज्य सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई प्रति अभ्यावेदन प्रस्तुत किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार को इस संदर्भ में कितने अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ङ) सरकार ने इन पर क्या कार्यवाही की है;

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(छ) सौराष्ट्र क्षेत्र में उच्च न्यायालय की पीठ स्थापित करने में कौन-कौन सी अड़चनें पेश आ रही हैं?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) से (छ) सौराष्ट्र में गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय की न्यायपीठ स्थापित किए जाने के संबंध में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान चार अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए थे। गुजरात सरकार से, उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायमूर्ति के परामर्श से, कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त न होने के कारण केन्द्रीय सरकार के लिए इस मामले में कोई कार्रवाई करना संभव नहीं हो पाया है।